

MINUTES
MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 2, 2011
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: R. Favretti (Chairman), M. Beal, J. Goodwin, R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, P. Plante, B. Pociask, B. Ryan
Alternates present: K. Rawn
Alternates absent: F. Loxsom, V. Ward
Staff present: G. Meitzler (Wetlands Agent)

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He noted that alternate Rawn was to act only if a member was disqualified or unable to act.

Minutes:

4-4-11 – Hall MOVED, Goodwin seconded, to approve the 4-4-11 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Ryan who disqualified herself. Beal noted that he had listened to the recording of the meeting.

Communications:

The 4-25-11 Wetlands Agent's Monthly Business report and the 4-16-11 Conservation Commission Draft minutes were noted.

New Business:

W1475 - Town of Mansfield - Eagleville Preserve, footbridge over seasonal brook

Holt MOVED, Ryan seconded, to make a declaratory ruling that an exemption from licensing requirements is granted pursuant to Sections 4.2 A and 4.2 B of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield to The Town of Mansfield (file no. W1475), for replacement of an existing footbridge within regulated areas, as a non-regulated use, located near the south end of the Eagleville Preserve, as outlined in application submissions including a map dated April 19, 2011.

In addition to the footbridge replacement, this includes replacement of existing benches, and minor clean up of downed wood and tree growth encroaching on the existing trail.

This action is based on a finding of essential conformance with the requirements of Sections 4.2 A and 4.2 B of the wetlands regulations.

This approval is valid for a period of five years (until May 2, 2016), unless additional time is requested by the applicant and granted by the Inland Wetlands Agency. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

W1476 - Town of Mansfield - Dorwart Preserve, footbridge over seasonal brook

Ryan MOVED, Holt seconded, to make a declaratory ruling that an exemption from licensing requirements is granted pursuant to Sections 4.2 A and 4.2 B of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield to The Town of Mansfield (file no. W1476), for installation of a footbridge within regulated areas, as a non-regulated use, located near the south end of the Dorwart Preserve, as outlined in application submissions including a map dated April 27, 2011.

In addition to the footbridge installation, this includes removal of invasive barberry bushes and minor clean up of downed wood and tree growth in the area of the bridge.

This action is based on a finding of essential conformance with the requirements of Sections 4.2 A and 4.2 B of the wetlands regulations.

This approval is valid for a period of five years (until May 2, 2016), unless additional time is requested by the applicant and granted by the Inland Wetlands Agency. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

W1478 - Town of Mansfield - Sawmill Brook Preserve, viewing platform

Ryan MOVED, Holt seconded, to make a declaratory ruling that an exemption from licensing requirements is granted pursuant to Sections 4.2 A and 4.2 B of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield to The Town of Mansfield (file no. W1478), for installation of a viewing platform within regulated areas, as a non-regulated use, located near the north end of the Sawmill Brook Preserve, as outlined in application submissions including a map dated April 27, 2011.

In addition to the platform construction, this includes minor clean up of downed wood and tree growth in the area of the platform.

The applicant is referred to the Mansfield Building Department to insure that any applicable building code requirements are met.

This action is based on a finding of essential conformance with the requirements of Sections 4.2 A and 4.2 B of the wetlands regulations.

This approval is valid for a period of five years (until May 2, 2016), unless additional time is requested by the applicant and granted by the Inland Wetlands Agency. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

W1477 - Walker - Riverview Rd - Solar Energy Installation within 75' of river

Goodwin MOVED, Holt seconded, to receive the application submitted by H. Walker (IWA file# 1477) under the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield for a proposed photovoltaic system, located at 65 Riverview Road, on property owned by the applicant, as shown on a map dated 4/22/11 and as described in other application submissions and to refer the application to the staff and Conservation Commission for review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Reports of Officers and Committees:

A field trip was scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.

Other Communications and Bills:

Noted.

Public Hearing:

W1474 - Plimpton - Wormwood Hill/Gurleyville Rds - 4 lot subdivision

Chairman Favretti opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m. Members present were Favretti, Beal, Goodwin, Hall, Holt, Lewis, Plante, Pociask, Ryan and alternate Rawn. Meitzler read the legal notice as it appeared in the Chronicle on April 19 and April 27, 2011, and noted the following communications received and distributed to the Commission: a 4/28/11 and 3/29/11 report from the Assistant Town Engineer; a 4/28/11 report from K. Bradley, Project Ecologist; and a 4/25/11 email from L. Cano, 587 Wormwood Hill Rd.

Douglas Bonoff, Land Surveyor; Paul Biscutti, Engineer; and Kim Bradley, Ecologist, were present representing the applicant.

P. Biscutti reviewed the property and the proposed 4-lot subdivision, noting that they can meet all recommendations noted in staff reports and will revise the plans to reflect the changes.

K. Bradley described the characteristics of the vernal pool on the property, noting there is no fish population there, but she found wood frog and spotted salamanders. She recommended mitigation measures which included: retaining a gravel driveway with a vegetative buffer, directing drainage away from the vernal pool; restricting use of chemicals; and no tree removal around the pool.

P. Biscutti discussed the drainage plan, noting that it is designed to flow away from the vernal pool and he stated that the driveway turnaround can be incorporated on the west side of the drive without impacts to the vernal pool.

Cliff Gottman, 580 Gurleyville Road, commented on: the driveway turnoff area and noted contradictions about the impact on drainage; the recommendation of the Ecologist to retain trees, but noted many trees have already been removed; concerns over plowing snow, which most likely will change the drainage flow patterns; and concern over chemicals used for snow/ice removal.

Hans Franzen, 584 Gurleyville Road, expressed concern about the drainage.

Richard Roberts, 596 Gurleyville Road, expressed concern about the drainage.

Cliff Gottman, 580 Gurleyville Road, repeated his concern regarding drainage and the impact it will have on his leech field.

Biscutti assured the neighbors that the applicant would agree with the revisions discussed to mitigate their concerns, and Bonoff related that Mr. Plimpton would be willing to give an extension to the public hearing time if needed.. It was noted that revised plans should be submitted 10 days prior to the continued public hearing on June 6, 2011.

Holt MOVED, Hall seconded, to continue the public hearing to June 6, 2011. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

Favretti declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Holt, Secretary